

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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FOR JOHN S MEADOWS

FOLLOWING REPEAT ROME 980 ACTION SECSTATE 22 JAN

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, IT

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - EX POST SUMMER SEASON CAPACITY TALKS

REF: (A) STATE 11146; (B) ROME 675; (C) ROME 647

1. ON JANUARY 21 EMBASSY DELIVERED NOTE VERBALE TO MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) STATING THAT USG REPS WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR EX POST 1973 SUMMER SEASON CAPACITY CONSULTATIONS IN ROME IN MID-MARCH 1974. (THIS INFO PASSED MFA BY TELEPHONE ON JANUARY 19).

2. MFA REP LA MORTE SAID MFA PREPARING RESPONSE WHICH WOULD INDICATE:

(A) MID-MARCH TALKS NOT VERY USEFUL IN VIEW OF LATE DATE BUT NOTE WOULD NEITHER ACCEPT US PROPOSED DATE NOR CALL FOR EARLIER CONSULTATIONS; (B) ACKNOWLEDGE EMBASSY'S ORAL COMMITMENT THAT US CARRIERS WILL
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NOT INCREASE CAPACITY IN 1974 SUMMER SEASON; AND (C) STATE THAT GOI OPINIONS EXPRESSED DURING PREVIOUS CONSULTATIONS ON 1973 SUMMER SEASON CAPACITY HAD BEEN FULLY SUPPORTED BY DEVELOPMENTS.

3. ALITALIA REP LECCESE TOLD EMBOFF JANUARY 22 THAT MID-MARCH DATE "SATISFACTORY" PROVIDED PAA-TWA-ALITALIA CONSULTATIONS ON 1974 SUMMER CAPACITY, WHICH BEGIN JANUARY 23, REACH FIRM AGREEMENT. WHETHER GOI INSISTS ON PROCEEDING WITH CONSULTATIONS WILL DEPEND, IN EMBASSY'S VIEW, ON OUTCOME THESE TALKS.

4. EMBASSY DID NOT RPT NOT SUGGEST THAT GOI REPS COME TO WASHINGTON. GOI CONSIDERS IT HAS FIRM UNDERSTANDING (AT MEADOWS-SANTINI LEVEL) THAT EX POST TALKS ARE TO BE IN ROME. ANY SUGGESTION RE WASHINGTON AS VENUE WOULD PROBABLY BE INTERPRETED BY ITALIANS AS EVIDENCE OF BAD FAITH BARGAINING, THUS FURTHER CHILLING ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH LANGUAGE DISCREPANCIES IN TEXT OF MOU MUST BE RESOLVED.

5. DAMORTE HEAVILY EMPHASIZED GOI DISTASTE FOR DEPARTURE FROM CONSULTATION PROCEDURES PRESCRIBED BY BILATERAL/MOU. HE SAID GENERAL SANTINI'S DECISION NOT TO INSIST ON TALKS BEFORE END DECEMBER (AN AWKWARD TIME FOR BOTH US AND ITALY) WAS BASED ON UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN

SANTINI AND MEADOWS THAT USG WOULD DEFINITELY BE AVAILABLE FOR CONSULTATIONS IN MID-JANUARY. SANTINI THEREFORE SOMEWHAT BITTER WHEN US REPS UNAVAILABLE BEFORE MID-MARCH. IT WAS AT THIS POINT DURING JANUARY 21 MFA-CIVILAVIA-ALITALIA MEETING AT MFA, LA MORTE NOTED, THAT SANTINI MADE DISPARAGING REMARKS ABOUT VALUE OF USG ASSURANCES RE PAA AND TWO SUMMER 1974 CAPACITY.

6. LA MORTE ALSO INDICATED THAT ALITALIA'S DESIRE DISCUSS ALLEGED VIOLATION OF OCTOBER 1973 CAPACITY AGREEMENT COVERING 1973/74 WINTER SEASON WAS BASED ON "MISUNDERSTANDING" AND THAT IN FACT NO SUCH VIOLATION HAD OCCURRED. (IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFFS QUESTION, HE SAID ALITALIA HAD ORIGINALLY QUESTIONED SWITCH TO 747 ON PAA FLIGHT 114/115.) VOLPE UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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